§ 124.19 Appeal of RCRA, UIC, NPDES and PSD Permits.

- (a) Petitioning for review of a permit decision. (1) Initiating an appeal. Appeal from a RCRA, UIC, NPDES, or PSD final permit decision issued under § 124.15 of this part, or a decision to deny a permit for the active life of a RCRA hazardous waste management facility or unit under § 270.29 cf. this chapter, is commenced by filing a petition for review with the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board within the time prescribed in paragraph (a)(3) of this section.
- (2) Who may file? Any person who filed comments on the draft permit or participated in a public hearing on the draft permit may file a petition for review as provided in this section. Additionally, any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing on the draft permit may petition for administrative review of any permit conditions set forth in the final permit decision, but only to the extent that those final permit conditions reflect changes from the proposed draft permit.
- (3) Filing deadline. A petition for review must be filed with the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board within 30 days after the Regional Administrator serves notice of the issuance of a RCRA, UIC, NPDES, or PSD final permit decision under § 124.15 or a decision to deny a permit for the active life of a RCRA hazardous waste management facility or unit under § 270.29 of this chapter. A petition is filed when it is received by the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board at the address specified for the appropriate method of delivery as provided in paragraph (i)(2) of this section.
- (4) Petition contents. (i) In addition to meeting the requirements in paragraph (d), a petition for review must identify the contested permit condition or other specific challenge to the permit decision and clearly set forth, with legal and factual support, petitioner's contentions for why the permit decision should be reviewed. The petition must demonstrate that each challenge to the permit decision is based on:
 - (A) A finding of fact or conclusion of law that is clearly erroneous, or
- (B) An exercise of discretion or an important policy consideration that the Environmental Appeals Board should, in its discretion, review.
- (ii) Petitioners must demonstrate, by providing specific citation to the administrative record, including the document name and page number, that each issue being raised in the petition was raised during the public comment period (including any public hearing) to the extent required by § 124.13. For each issue raised that was not raised previously, the petition must explain why such issues were not required to be raised during the public comment period as provided in § 124.13. Additionally, if the petition raises an issue that the Regional Administrator addressed in the response to comments document issued pursuant to § 124.17, then petitioner must provide a citation to the relevant comment and response and explain why the Regional Administrator's response to the comment was clearly erroneous or otherwise warrants review.
- (b) Response(s) to a petition for review. (1) In a PSD or other new source permit appeal, the Regional Administrator must file a response to the petition for review, a certified index of the administrative record, and the relevant portions of the administrative record within 21 days after the filing of the petition.
- (2) In all other permit appeals under this section, the Regional Administrator must file a response to the petition, a certified index of the administrative record, and the relevant portions of the administrative record within 30 days after the filing of a petition.
- (3) A permit applicant who did not file a petition but who wishes to participate in the appeal process must file a notice of appearance and a response to the petition. Such documents must be filed by the deadlines provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (2) of this section, as appropriate.
- (4) The State or Tribal authority where the permitted facility or site is or is proposed to be located (if that authority is not the permit issuer) must also file a notice of appearance and a response if it wishes to participate in the appeal. Such response must be filed by the deadlines provided in paragraph (b)(1) or (2) of this section, as appropriate.
- (c) Replies. (1) In PSD and other new source permit appeals, the Environmental Appeals Board will apply a presumption against the filing of a reply brief. By motion, petitioner may seek leave of the Environmental Appeals

Board to file a reply to the response, which the Environmental Appeals Board, in its discretion, may grant. The motion must be filed simultaneously with the proposed reply within 10 days after service of the response. In its motion, petitioner must specify those arguments in the response to which petitioner seeks to reply and the reasons petitioner believes it is necessary to file a reply to those arguments. Petitioner may not raise new issues or arguments in the motion or in the reply.

- (2) In all other permit appeals under this section, petitioner may file a reply within 15 days after service of the response. Petitioner may not raise new issues or arguments in the reply.
- (d) Content and form of briefs. (1) Content requirements. All briefs filed under this section must contain, under appropriate headings:
 - (i) A table of contents, with page references;
 - (ii) A table of authorities with references to the pages of the brief where they are cited;
 - (iii) A table of attachments, if required under paragraph (d)(2) of this section; and
 - (iv) A statement of compliance with the word limitation.
- (2) Attachments. Parts of the record to which the parties wish to direct the Environmental Appeals Board's attention may be appended to the brief submitted. If the brief includes attachments, a table must be included that provides the title of each appended document and assigns a label identifying where it may be found (e.g., Excerpts from the Response to Comments Document * * * Attachment 1).
- (3) Length. Unless otherwise ordered by the Environmental Appeals Board, petitions and response briefs may not exceed 14,000 words, and all other briefs may not exceed 7,000 words. Filers may rely on the word-processing system used to determine the word count. In lieu of a word limitation, filers may comply with a 30-page limit for petitions and response briefs, or a 15-page limit for replies. Headings, footnotes, and quotations count toward the word limitation. The table of contents, table of authorities, table of attachments (if any), statement requesting oral argument (if any), statement of compliance with the word limitation, and any attachments do not count toward the word limitation. The Environmental Appeals Board may exclude any petition, response, or other brief that does not meet word limitations. Where a party can demonstrate a compelling and documented need to exceed such limitations, such party must seek advance leave of the Environmental Appeals Board to file a longer brief. Such requests are discouraged and will be granted only in unusual circumstances.
- (e) Participation by amicus curiae. Any interested person may file an amicus brief in any appeal pending before the Environmental Appeals Board under this section. The deadline for filing such brief is 15 days after the filing of the response brief, except that amicus briefs in PSD or other new source permit appeals must be filed within 21 days after the filing of the petition. Amicus briefs must comply with all procedural requirements of this section.
- (f) *Motions*. (1) *In general*. A request for an order or other relief must be made by written motion unless these rules prescribe another form.
- (2) Contents of a motion. A motion must state with particularity the grounds for the motion, the relief sought, and the legal argument necessary to support the motion. In advance of filing a motion, parties must attempt to ascertain whether the other party(ies) concur(s) or object(s) to the motion and must indicate in the motion the attempt made and the response obtained.
- (3) Response to motion. Any party may file a response to a motion. Responses must state with particularity the grounds for opposition and the legal argument necessary to support the motion. The response must be filed within 15 days after service of the motion unless the Environmental Appeals Board shortens or extends the time for response.
- (4) Reply. Any reply to a response filed under paragraph (f)(3) of this section must be filed within 10 days after service of the response. A reply must not introduce any new issues or arguments and may respond only to matters presented in the response.
- (5) Disposition of a motion for a procedural order. The Environmental Appeals Board may act on a motion for a procedural order at any time without awaiting a response.

- (g) Timing of motions for extension of time. Parties must file motions for extensions of time sufficiently in advance of the due date to allow other parties to have a reasonable opportunity to respond to the request for more time and to provide the Environmental Appeals Board with a reasonable opportunity to issue an order.
- (h) Oral argument. The Environmental Appeals Board may hold oral argument on its own initiative or at its discretion in response to a request by one or more of the parties. To request oral argument, a party must include in its substantive brief a statement explaining why oral argument should be permitted. The Environmental Appeals Board will apply a presumption against oral argument in PSD or other new source permit appeals. The Environmental Appeals Board may, by order, establish additional procedures governing any oral argument before the Environmental Appeals Board.
- (i) Filing and service requirements. Documents filed under this section, including the petition for review, must be filed with the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board. A document is filed when it is received by the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board at the address specified for the appropriate method of delivery as provided in paragraph (i)(2) of this section.
- (1) Caption and other filing requirements. Every document filed with the Environmental Appeals Board must specifically identify in the caption the permit applicant, the permitted facility, and the permit number. All documents that are filed must be signed by the person filing the documents or the representative of the person filing the documents. Each filing must also indicate the signer's name, address, and telephone number, as well as an email address, and facsimile number, if any.
- (2) Method of filing. Unless otherwise permitted under these rules, documents must be filed either electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery. In addition, a motion or a response to a motion may be submitted by facsimile if the submission contains no attachments. Upon filing a motion or response to a motion by facsimile, the sender must, within one business day, submit the original copy to the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board either electronically, by mail, or by hand-delivery.
- (i) Electronic filing. Documents that are filed electronically must be submitted using the Environmental Appeals Board's electronic filing system, subject to any appropriate conditions and limitations imposed by order of the Environmental Appeals Board. All documents filed electronically must include the full name of the person filing below the signature line. Compliance with Environmental Appeals Board electronic filing requirements constitutes compliance with applicable signature requirements.
- (ii) Filing by U.S. Mail. Documents that are sent by U.S. Postal Service (except by U.S. Express Mail) must be sent to the official mailing address of the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board at: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Appeals Board, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Mail Code 1103M, Washington, DC 20460-0001. The original and two copies of each document must be filed. The person filing the documents must include a cover letter to the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board clearly identifying the documents that are being submitted, the name of the party on whose behalf the documents are being submitted, as well as the name of the person filing the documents, his or her address, telephone number and, if available, fax number and email address.
- (iii) Filing by hand delivery. Documents delivered by hand or courier (including deliveries by U.S. Express Mail) must be delivered to the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board at: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Appeals Board, EPA East Building, 1201 Constitution Avenue NW., Room 3334, Washington, DC 20004. The original and two copies of each document must be filed. The person filing the documents must include a cover letter to the Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board clearly identifying the documents being submitted, the name of the party on whose behalf the documents are being submitted, as well as the name of the person filing the documents, his or her address, telephone number and, if available, fax number and email address.
- (3) Service requirements. Petitioner must serve the petition for review on the Regional Administrator and the permit applicant (if the applicant is not the petitioner). Once an appeal is docketed, every document filed with the Environmental Appeals Board must be served on all other parties. Service must be by first class mail, or by any reliable commercial delivery service. Upon agreement by the parties, service may be made by facsimile or electronic means.
- (4) Proof of service. A certificate of service must be appended to each document filed stating the names of persons served, the date and manner of service, as well as the electronic, mailing, or hand delivery address, or facsimile number, as appropriate.

- (j) Withdrawal of permit or portions of permit by Regional Administrator. The Regional Administrator, at any time prior to 30 days after the Regional Administrator files its response to the petition for review under paragraph (b) of this section, may, upon notification to the Environmental Appeals Board and any interested parties, withdraw the permit and prepare a new draft permit under § 124.6 addressing the portions so withdrawn. The new draft permit must proceed through the same process of public comment and opportunity for a public hearing as would apply to any other draft permit subject to this part. Any portions of the permit that are not withdrawn and that are not stayed under § 124.16(a) continue to apply. If the Environmental Appeals Board has held oral argument, the Regional Administrator may not unilaterally withdraw the permit, but instead must request that the Environmental Appeals Board grant a voluntary remand of the permit or any portion thereof.
- (k) Petitioner request for dismissal of petition. Petitioner, by motion, may request to have the Environmental Appeals Board dismiss its appeal. The motion must briefly state the reason for its request.
- (I) Final disposition and judicial review. (1) A petition to the Environmental Appeals Board under paragraph (a) of this section is, under 5 U.S.C. 704, a prerequisite to seeking judicial review of the final agency action.
- (2) For purposes of judicial review under the appropriate Act, final agency action on a RCRA, UIC, NPDES, or PSD permit occurs when agency review procedures under this section are exhausted and the Regional Administrator subsequently issues a final permit decision under this paragraph. A final permit decision must be issued by the Regional Administrator:
- (i) When the Environmental Appeals Board issues notice to the parties that the petition for review has been denied:
- (ii) When the Environmental Appeals Board issues a decision on the merits of the appeal and the decision does not include a remand of the proceedings; or
- (iii) Upon the completion of remand proceedings if the proceedings are remanded, unless the Environmental Appeals Board's remand order specifically provides that appeal of the remand decision will be required to exhaust administrative remedies.
- (3) The Regional Administrator must promptly publish notice of any final agency action regarding a PSD permit in the Federal Register.
- (m) Motions for reconsideration or clarification. Motions to reconsider or clarify any final disposition of the Environmental Appeals Board must be filed within 10 days after service of that order. Motions for reconsideration must set forth the matters claimed to have been erroneously decided and the nature of the alleged errors. Motions for clarification must set forth with specificity the portion of the decision for which clarification is being sought and the reason clarification is necessary. Motions for reconsideration or clarification under this provision must be directed to, and decided by, the Environmental Appeals Board. Motions for reconsideration or clarification directed to the Administrator, rather than the Environmental Appeals Board, will not be considered, unless such motion relates to a matter that the Environmental Appeals Board has referred to the Administrator pursuant to § 124.2 and for which the Administrator has issued the final order. A motion for reconsideration or clarification does not stay the effective date of the final order unless the Environmental Appeals Board specifically so orders.
- (n) Board authority. In exercising its duties and responsibilities under this part, the Environmental Appeals Board may do all acts and take all measures necessary for the efficient, fair, and impartial adjudication of issues arising in an appeal under this part including, but not limited to, imposing procedural sanctions against a party who, without adequate justification, fails or refuses to comply with this part or an order of the Environmental Appeals Board. Such sanctions may include drawing adverse inferences against a party, striking a party's pleadings or other submissions from the record, and denying any or all relief sought by the party in the proceeding. Additionally, for good cause, the Board may relax or suspend the filing requirements prescribed by these rules or Board order.
- (o) General NPDES permits. (1) Persons affected by an NPDES general permit may not file a petition under this section or otherwise challenge the conditions of a general permit in further Agency proceedings. Instead, they may do either of the following:
 - (i) Challenge the general permit by filing an action in court; or

- (ii) Apply for an individual NPDES permit under § 122.21 as authorized in § 122.28 of this chapter and may then petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review the individual permit as provided by this section.
- (2) As provided in § 122.28(b)(3) of this chapter, any interested person may also petition the Director to require an individual NPDES permit for any discharger eligible for authorization to discharge under an NPDES general permit.
- (p) The Environmental Appeals Board also may decide on its own initiative to review any condition of any RCRA, UIC, NPDES, or PSD permit decision issued under this part for which review is available under paragraph (a) of this section. The Environmental Appeals Board must act under this paragraph within 30 days of the service date of notice of the Regional Administrator's action.

[78 FR 5285, Jan. 25, 2013]

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Page 1

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE COUNTY OF JACKSON

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED

CLASS II PERMIT

UNDERGROUND INJECTION WELL

WEST BAY EXPLORATION COMPANY

PUBLIC HEARING

May 23, 2012 - 7:00 p.m.

Brooklyn, Michigan

Dana Rzeznik, EPA Hearing Officer

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APPEARANCES

Dana Rzeznik, EPA Hearing Officer Anna Miller, EPA Scientist Jeffrey Wawczak, EPA Scientist Timothy Elkins, EPA Scientist Jennifer Ostermeier, EPA Hearing Facilitator Peter Cassell, EPA Public Affairs

JANE ROSE REPORTING
80 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10011
1-800-825-3341
Mindy Womack, Court Reporter

Page 3 1 MS. RZEZNIK: Will the hearing come to order 2 please. Good evening. Welcome! I am Dana Rzeznik, I'm an Environmental Engineer with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and tonight I am the Hearing Officer, representing EPA for this public hearing. With me are: Anna Miller, an environmental scientist with EPA and author of the draft underground injection control permit; Jeffrey Wawczak, an EPA environmental scientist; Timothy Elkins, also an EPA 10 environmental scientist, Jennifer Ostermeier, EPA 11 hearing facilitator and Peter Cassell from the EPA 12 office of Public Affairs. We are here to listen to 13 your comments regarding a permit EPA has proposed to 14 issue to West Bay Exploration Company for a Class II 15 injection well located in Jackson County, Michigan. 16 The permit which is the subject of tonight's 17 hearing is being issued pursuant to the Federal 18 Underground Injection Control Program for the State of 19 Michigan, which may be found in the Code of Federal 20 Regulations at Title 40, Section 147.1151. This 21 section was promulgated pursuant to Part C of the Safe 22 Drinking Water Act. It incorporates the Underground 23 injection Control Program requirements of Part 124, 144 24 and 146 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The 25 effective date of this program in Michigan was June 25,

	Page 4
1	1984.
2	The Underground Injection Control of UIC
3	Program is designed to protect underground sources of
4	drinking water by permitting only those injection wells
5	which meet stringent technical requirements. The
. 6	program is also designed to ensure public participation
7	in the permitting process. The public is invited to
8	comment on every proposed permit decision. EPA holds
9	public hearings for those draft permit decisions that
10	generate significant public interest or comments.
11	The proposed permit which is the subject of
12	tonight's hearing is a Class II injection well. Anna
13	Miller will describe the well and the safeguards
14	provided to protect the environment. An announcement
15	of this public hearing was made in the Jackson
16	Citizen-Patriot, April 17, 2012 and was mailed to those
17	who provided comments.
18	Now, a little bit about the nature of a
19	public hearing. Public hearings provide members of the
20	public with an opportunity to publicly make EPA aware
21	of their views on an intended regulatory action.
22	Although oral presentations are recorded word for word
23	by a court reporter, there is no sworn testimony or
24	cross-examination. This is your opportunity to tell us
25	officially whether you feel the terms of the permit are

	Page 5
1	consistent with EPA's Underground Injection Control
2	Program requirements and whether the facts, as EPA has
3	determined them, are accurate. During the comments
4	portion of this hearing we will listen to them only.
5	We will not respond to these comments this evening.
6	All comments received will be reviewed and addressed in
7	a responsiveness summary to be added to the permit
8	Administrative Record.
9	EPA will consider all comments in making its
10	decision to issue or deny this UIC permit for West Bay
11	Exploration Company. You may appeal any technical
12	details or qualifications of the final permit decision
13	only if you submit written comments on the draft permit
1.4	during the public comment period or if you make a
15	statement in this hearing tonight. If you wish to make
16	a statement at this hearing, please be sure that you
17	have filled in a registration form so that we may
18	correctly enter your name into the hearing record.
19	Even if you don't choose to make a statement, but want
20	to receive a copy of any response and the final permit
21	decision, make sure that you have indicated so on the
22	sign-in sheet at the sign-in table.
23	Copies of the transcript of this hearing as
24	well as all written comments submitted in this
25	proceeding will be maintained at the EPA. Region 5

	Page 6
1	offices in Chicago and will become part of the
.2	Administrative Record. The transcript of this meeting
3	and a copy of the responsiveness summary of comments
4	received, will also be available for your review at the
5	Jackson District Library 244 W. Michigan Jackson,
6	Michigan. These documents will also be available on
7	EPA website at
8	http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/uic/uicpub.htm.
9	The public comment period has been extended
10	through June 1 so that if you have written statements
11	upon the conclusion of the hearing, you may also
12	forward those to EPA, at the address in the Public
13	Notice which has been provided.
14	First Ms. Miller will read her statement into
15	the record. Ms. Ostermeier will then begin calling on
16	those who have checked on their registration form that
17	they would like to make a statement and have it
18	transcribed by the court reporter. Now, I will turn
19	the floor over to Ms. Anna Miller.
20	MS. MILLER: Good evening. My name is Anna
21	Miller. I am an environmental scientist with the
22	United States Environmental Protection Agency in
23	Chicago, Illinois.
24	I am the permit writer of the draft permit
25	for the West Bay #22 proposed well. I am here today to

-		WELL AND	
			Page 7
	1	listen to comments on a permit to inject fluid	
	2	underground through a well for waste disposal purposes	
	3	EPA proposes to issue a permit to West Bay	
	4	Exploration Company under the Federal Underground	
	5	Injection Control Program for the State of Michigan.	
	. 6	The Federal Underground Injection Control	
	7	Program is a part of the Federal Safe Drinking Water	
	8	Act. Regulations for the Safe Drinking Water Act	
ĺ	9	impose technical requirements on injection wells to	
	10	protect underground sources of drinking water.	
ļ	11	The scope of the Federal Underground	
l	12	Injection Control Program is to determine the soundness	;
l	13	of construction and operation of injection wells as	:
	14	they relate to protection of all underground sources of	
	15	drinking water. An underground source of drinking	
l	16	water is defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act is a	
	17	aquifer or its portion which contains less than 10,000	
	18	milligrams per liter of total dissolved solids. This	
	19	includes current sources of drinking water, as well as	
ļ	20	potential sources of drinking water.	
	21	The permit which is the subject of today's	
	22	hearing is a Class II disposal injection well permit	
	23	for the proposed West Bay #22 well. The proposed	
	24	injection well would be used to inject fluids that	
	25	result from the production of oil and gas into the	

		
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1	ground for disposal. These fluids are commonly called	
2	brine. The well would inject fluids from the West Bay	
3	Exploration Company's production wells. The total	
4	depth of the well would be 2,950 feet.	
5	EPA reviewed the geology of the area, the	
6	construction records of nearby existing deep wells, and	
77	the proposed well construction and well operation data.	
8 .	The base of the lowermost possible	
9	underground source of drinking water in the vicinity of	
10	the injection well has been identified as the Marshall	
11	Sandstone located about 226 feet below ground surface	
12	The injection zone is limited by the permit	
13	to the Niagara Group in the interval between 2662 and	
14	3032 feet below ground surface.	
15	The Niagara Group injection zone is separated	
16	for the lowermost underground source of drinking water	
17	by a confining layer and approximately 2436 feet of	
18	shales, limestones and various other rock formations.	
19	The confining zone will serve to prevent the	
20	injection fluid from migrating upward out of the	
21	injection zone.	
22	The well will be constructed to prevent the	
23	movement of fluid into or between the deepest	
24	underground sources of drinking water. It will be	
25	fully encased and cemented to the surface. Injection	

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will take place through tubing, which is set within the steel casing. A packer will be set at the bottom of the tubing to seal off the space between the casing and tubing, which will be filled with a liquid mixture containing a corrosion inhibitor, and will allow the pressure in the space to be monitored.

The injection pressure will be limited to 682 pounds per inch gauge. This limitation will ensure that the injection pressure will not cause injection formation -- injection or formation fluid to move into underground sources of drinking water. The permit would also limit the injected fluid to brine.

The West Bay Exploration Company may not start drilling or constructing the injection well until a final permit has been issued. Before EPA authorizes the company to inject, West Bay Exploration Company must conduct and pass a mechanical integrity test; that is, the pressure in the space between the tubing and the casing is monitored and tested before operation to make sure there are no leaks.

If West Bay Exploration Company is issued the permit, they will be responsible for observing and recording: Injection pressure, flow rate, annulus pressure, and cumulative injected volume on a weekly basis and will report this information to EPA on a

	Page 10
1	monthly basis.
2	West Bay Exploration Company will also be
3	responsible for observing, recording and reporting
4	annulus liquid loss on a quarterly basis. They must
5	also submit an analysis of injected fluid on an annual
6	basis.
7	They must test for mechanical integrity every
8	five years thereafter as long as the well is operating.
9	The tests are witnessed by EPA representative.
10	West Bay Exploration Company has demonstrated
11	adequate financial responsibilities to close, plug, and
12	abandon this injection well. A state bond in the
13	amount \$25,000 has been established for this purpose.
14	Now it is your opportunity to tell us your
15.	comments on the proposed permit.
16	EPA will consider all comments in making its
17	decision to issue or deny this underground injection
18	control permit to West Bay Exploration Company.
19	Jennifer?
20	MS. OSTERMEIER: I have a list of the folks
21	who are interested in making a formal public comment
22	this evening. What I would like for folks to do is I'm
23	going to call two names at one time. The first name
24	I'd like to go to this microphone, and the second, just
25	come here and sit so that we can make this as quick as

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1.	possible and we can make sure to get everybody's
2	comments this evening.
3	We are going to we have about 30 to 35
4	commenters this evening, so I'm going to try to limit
5	those public comments to four minutes, which should get
6	us out of here approximately 9:00. So that's the first
7	thing.
8	The second thing is, when you do come up to
9	make your public comments, please state your name and
10	spell your name for the court reporter so that we can
11	make sure that your comment is attributed to you.
12	That being said, these names are in no
13	particular order so if the first person would come up.
14	Victoria Powell, please come to this microphone, and
15	then that would be followed by Pamela Johnson.
16	Victoria? Pamela? Okay.
17	MR. POWELL: Victoria Powell,
18	V-I-C-T-O-R-I-A, P-O-W-E-L-L. I'm a resident of
19	Lenawee County. I'm a pediatrician. I listened to the
20	comments and questions in the first half of the
21	meeting, and I'm struck by the fact that I witnessed
22	that a member from the DEQ was laughing during part of
23	this. The second person was sleeping during part of
24	our very important comment session. That disturbs me,
25	and it disturbs me because the DEQ is the department in

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our state that allows permits for gas and oil drilling in our state. And Hal Fitch didn't come but he is notorious for saying that as a single deciding person, he allows these permits to take place after an environmental impact assessment is done. The industry does the assessment. I really don't know if he's ever denied permits, to be honest with you.

But what disturbs me further is that the questions that have come up tonight, we seem to know more the answers and the information than the responders. How can that be? I mean we rely on people who are educated and knowledgeable and are supposed to be informed, and we only are here to help them help us.

Injection wells are serious business, and it's my particular concern that we did not discuss the risks that are involved with injection wells. There is approximately 13% leakage or contamination of water from injection wells that have already been placed in the state. Many of you know Dr. Grobbel who appeared about a month ago, gave us very important information about the seriousness of injection wells.

And we did not address really the upward migration of contaminated toxic brine solution that is going to be going into the injection wells. Nobody seems to know how far it will spread. Nobody knows how

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	Page 13
ĺ	it's going to really be alerting the public if there is
2	a contamination. And I just want to know why don't
3	they know this stuff? Why don't we know it? Why can't
4	we know it. I feel that we're getting railroaded and
5	forced to accept more and more what the oil and gas
6	industry is in charge of. They gain everything, and we
7	gain very little.
8	I think that everyone is aware of what
9	happened to Kalamazoo River, and that would have been
10	January 25th, 2010. To date it has not been cleared,
11	and this is a perfect example of how measuring pressure
12	and the system fails. It took 20 hours with altered
13	pressure readings in the ruptured pipe before anyone
14	came and shut the oil flow off. And to this very day,
15	we still have horrible contamination of one of the
16	major rivers in our state.
17	I think that if nothing else comes out of
18	this, I would ask members of the EPA to please find out
19	some of the answers that we were looking for that we
20	did not receive tonight, and to be as concerned as we
21	are. Thank you.
22	MS. OSTERMEIER: Pamela Johnson. Next would
23	be Judy Botte.
24	MS. JOHNSON: My name is Pamela Johnson,
. 25	P-A-M-E-L-A, J-O-H-N-S-O-N. I'm Norvell Township

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1	trustee. My question my comment is why does EPA
2	grant permits for practices that could be so
3	potentially damaging to our environment based on
4	information provided by the permit applicant without
5	doing their own environmental impact study? It is
6	scary that everything that we do is very close to
7	water. If anything contaminates our water sources, our
8	entire area will be tremendously damaged. This needs
9	to be considered. Thank you.
10	MS. OSTERMEIER: Thank you. Tim Porter will
11	be after Judy.
12	MS. BOTTE: My name is Judy Botte, B-O-T-T-E.
13	My question is what it was a while ago. If you don't
1.4	know how far the contaminants are going to be
15	spreading, why would you authorize a permit that is
16	close to the Raisin River? That doesn't make sense to
17.	me at all. Thank you.
18	MS. OSTERMEIER: Thank you. Tim Porter.
19	After Tim the next person is Peter Bormuth.
20.	MS. PORTER: I'd just like to say that at the
21	end of the day, my family and I both will be within a
22	mile radius of the seawall injector. You don't seem to
23	even know for sure definite answers, but you're
24	qualified to approve it. I can't accept that.
25	MS. OSTERMEIER: Peter Bormuth is next.

	Page 15
1	After him, Pam Anderson.
2	MR. BORMUTH: Hi. I have a number of
. 3	comments. The first is a factual inaccuracy on the
4	application by West Bay. They state that Donald and
5	Elaine Orvos are the owners of a property at 12536 Ladd
6	Road, and real estate summary sheets say the owners are
7	Lawrence and Wanda Holcomb at 12536 Ladd Road. Now
8	this may just be a clerical error. On the other hand,
9	it's possible that Mr. Lawrence Holcomb is opposed to
10	this well and has been deliberately denied from being
11	placed on this sheet, appendix 1P22 submitted by West
12	Bay Oil Exploration to the EPA.
13	I have a second comment that I would like to
14	make the EPA themselves on the fact sheet for this well
15	admits that, "common constituents found brines may
16	oil field brines may contain various amounts of
17	hydrocarbons such as benzene, ethylbenzene, Toluene,
18	Xylene, Naphthalene, and polycyclic aromatic
19	hydrocarbons.
20	I'd like the people here to know what the
21	toxicity of these substances is. This is from the
22	medical dictionary. Benzine is conclusively known as a
23	human carcinogen and a notorious cause of bone marrow
2 4	failure. Vast quantities of epidemiological clinical
25	and laboratory data linked Benzene to aplastic anemia,

	Page 16
1	acute leukemia, kidney cancer and bone marrow
2	abnormalities. It's also been linked to neuro birth
3	defects and spina bifida.
4	Ethylbenzene exposure can irritate the eyes,
5	nose and throat. Very high levels can cause paralysis,
6	trouble breathing and death. High exposure may also
7	damage the liver and chronic long-term effects can last
8	for months or years.
9	Toluene, I may BE pronouncing that wrong, I'm
10	sorry. Exposure is associated with effects such as:
11	Psychoorganic syndrome; visual evoked potential, toxic
12	polyneuropathy, optic atrophy, brain lesions,
13	cerebellar, cognitive, and pyramidal dysfunctions. Low
1.4	to moderate levels can cause tiredness, confusion,
15	weakness, drunken-type actions, memory loss, nausea and
16	loss of appetite, hearing and color vision.
17	Xylene is an irritant of the eyes and mucus
18	membranes IN concentrations below 200 ppm. Ingestion
19	of xylene causes gastrointestinal distress, disturbance
20	of liver and kidney function, and may cause toxic
21	hepatitis. Chronic exposure can cause central nervous
22	system depression, anemia, mucosal hemorrhage, bone
23	marrow hyperplasia, liver enlargement, and liver
24	necrosis.
25	Naphthalene is classified as possibly

	Page 17
1	carcinogenic to humans and may damage or destroy red
2	blood cells. Exposure may cause confusion, nausea,
3	vomiting, diarrhea, cataracts, blood in urine and
4	jaundice. Under California's Proposition 65,
5	Naphthalene is listed as known to the state to cause
6	cancer.
7	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are known
8	for their carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic
9	properties. Prenatal exposure is associated with lower
10	IQ and childhood asthma. The Center for the Children's
11	Environmental Health reports that exposure to PAH
12	during pregnancy is related to adverse birth outcomes
13	including low birth weight, premature delivery, and
14	heart malformations. These are not benign chemicals.
15	Plaintiffs would also like I'd also like
16	to point out that these wells have caused aquifer and
17	well contamination in other states. The Texas Railroad
18	Commission, which oversees oil exploration and waste
19	injection wells in Texas, has received thousands of
20	complaints over the years from individual landowners.
21	Complaints that come from 85 different counties, almost
22	all alleging groundwater contamination by sodium and
23	waste hydrocarbons.
24	Officials in Chico, Texas wrote letters to
25	the Railroad Commission asking for stronger regulations

Page 18

and increased monitoring to protect their water wells. They were ignored. And in 2005 fluids from the Class II well came bubbling to the surface and other nearby water wells outside the quarter mile radius around the injection well.

Plaintiffs would like to point out that Anna Miller said that the bond of this well is \$25,000. It's bond number 08937735 Fidelity Deposit Company of Maryland. This bond is completely insufficient even dealing with the problems around a quarter mile acre radius if you surround this well. The properties, the SEV value of those properties from Jackson County is \$1,451,920. Should a surface water contamination issue arise, it's reasonable to expect the contamination to effect Vineyard Lake and the Raisin River. I'd like to note that lakefront properties alone, not including subdivision behind it 342 parcels on Vineyard Lake, are worth SEV 25 million dollars.

I'd also like to point out that the Ohio
Department of Natural Resources recently closed one of
these wells in the Youngstown area because it had
caused 12 different low magnitude earthquakes. The
report from the Ohio DNR concludes that a fault must
already exist in a crystalline basement rock. The
fault must be in near-failure state of stress; that an

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	Page 19
1	injection well must be drilled deep enough and near
2	enough to the fault and have a path of communication to
3	the fault; and that the well must inject a sufficient
4	quantity of fluid at a high enough pressure for an
5	adequate period of time to cause failure.
6	The Ohio DNR report concluded that the
7	Northstar Class II injection well caused the
8	earthquakes in the Youngstown area, and they decided
9	that they would require a number of reforms in the
10	permitting process, including a complete suite of
11	geophysical logs, including, at a minimum, gamma ray,
12	compensated density, neutron, and resistivity logs.
13	I'd like those to also be conducted here in the state.
14	I'd also like the EPA to take notice of the
15	Indiana bat is in this area, and that they must be
16	respected because they're on the Federal Endangered
17	List.
18	And finally, I want to talk about the geology
19	of this site, which is the most important factor. West
20	Bay's application states that the upper confining zone
21	evaporite at depths of 2634 feet to 2066 feet. The
22	description of this is Anhydrite, dense, hard, white,
23	an excellent barrier to flow. Geologists rate mineral
24	hardness according to Moh's hardness scale, which shows
25	Anhydrite to be a 3.5 on a scale of 10. The truth is

	Page 20
1	that Anhydrite is relatively soft, weak and easily
2	formed. It's also a geological fact, Miss Miller, that
3	Anhydrite upon exposure to water turns into gypsum,
4	which is the second softest material on the Moh's scale
5	and is basically porous and solvent in water, and
6	salinity adds to this effect. It lowers the
7	temperature at which the transition must take place.
8	I would like to suggest that EPA is guilty of
9	gross negligence for permitting this well. Anhydrite
10	will not cap it. Within 30 years, all of that fluid
11	will come bubbling to the surface, and I've already
12	told you what those chemicals will do to you, and your
13	children, and your grandchildren. Thank you.
1.4	My name is Peter Bormuth, and it's spelled
15	B-O-R-M-U-T-H, just so you don't remove my comments
16	from the record.
17	MS. ANDERSON: Okay. That's really hard to
18	follow.
19	My name is Pam Anderson, P-A-M,
20	A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. And my comments are I am very, very
21	appalled with the EPA. First of all, I'm very appalled
22	that you do not even bother to make the chemical
2,3	composition of the brine made public. And every time
24	West Bay was asked, it's their secret ingredients. I'm
25	very disappointed that that has never been brought out

	Page 21
1	to the surface.
2 .	Also, how simple would it be to require them
3	to have a monitoring well, because you don't even know
4	how far down it's going to spread, don't know how wide
5	it's going to spread? A monitoring well would help
6	relieve a lot of people's minds knowing that it is not
. 7	coming to the surface, knowing that it is not spreading
8	either direction where it's not supposed to be. Thank
9	you.
10	MS. OSTERMEIER: Holly Taylor followed by
11	Pamela Bacon.
12	MS. TAYLOR: My name is Holly Taylor,
13	H-O-L-L-Y, T-A-Y-L-O-R. I would like to request that
14	in the event that this Class II injection well is
15	reclassified, which I understand happens sometimes,
16	that some forum, public forum, some forum be devised
17	for a public forum, a hearing on that reclassification
18	before it's allowed to go through. The EPA is the only
19	one who can do this, and you need to come up with a
20	mechanism and assure us that that mechanism is going to
21	work. Thank you.
22	MS. OSTERMEIER: Pamela Bacon, followed Adam
23	G. Ulbin.
24 /	MS. BACON: My name is Pamela Bacon,
25	P-A-M-E-L-A, B-A-C-O-N, May 2010 St. Joseph Church we

	Page 22
1	had a first town hall forum. Walter from the DEQ
2	visited. He told us specifically that we would not
3	have any radioactive or hazardous waste from any of the
4 .	drilling that was taking place in our area; that it
5	would be definitely transported to an EPA approved
6 ·	site, not in the Irish Hills. My question is, what
7	prompted this change that we are now having to be faced
8	with two of them, one on Palmer Road, one on the Ladd/
9	Bettis area?
10	Number two, I'd like to understand too if we
11	are now the top producer, the Irish Hills, top producer
12	of oil and gas let me change that. We are of oil.
13	Top is the one producer in Michigan. We have right now
14	42, 45 wells in production. We are slated for another
15	40, what I've heard. We had two injection wells. I
16	was told that out of that 45 wells, two injection wells
17	were needed to put the waste. That means that we have
18	another 40-some odd wells coming in. That means we are
19	now obviously going to be faced with more injection
20	wells.
21	I would hope that we would be told this way
22	before we were the's fees that we're now being laid
23	with on Palmer and on Ladd. Again, we were not even
24	aware of that in this community. It was by pure luck
25	that this information came out so that our community

	Page 23
1	could talk about this tonight. So that's it. Thank
2	you.
3	MS. OSTERMEIER: Adam Ulbin, and he will be
4	followed by Art Botte.
5	MS, ALDEN: Adam Ulbin, supervisor Norvell
6	Township spelled U-L-B-I-N.
7	Michigan has four of the largest rivers that
8.	pass through Jackson County. We have Grand River
9	river, the Kalamazoo River, Portage River and the River
10	Raisin which runs through Norvell Township. In fact,
11	in Norvell Township we have River Raisin running
12	through two parts of the township, one in the northern
13	portion, one through the Village of Norvell, and the
14	other outlet is through Mud Lake.
15	Norvell Township has many, many lakes in it,
1.6	has many tributaries, has many wetlands. We have
17	Vinyard Lake we have Wamplers Lake, we have Mud Lake,
18	Swezzey Lake, Norvell Lake. There's several lakes,
19	several unnamed lakes in our communities.
20	We have taken a lot of time and a lot of
21	pride on our zoning ordinance and looking at
22	environmental impacts that could happen to our lakes,
23	and we've implemented a lot of things that would
24	prevent people such as not oil people, we do cover
25	that, unfortunately, I don't know if we could have, but

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there's a lot of protection in our zoning ordinances.

One of the things we have done in our township is the two major lakes that we have is Wamplers Lake and Vinyard Lake. People have taken — spent a lot of money, put sewers around the lake to protect the groundwater, to protect their drinking water, and now we're confronted with this particular type of injection well.

As I said before, we were never notified that this injection well is going in, so we started looking into it and Hal Fitch, kind of a repeat, but I think it's important it goes for the record Hal Fitch of the DEQ, we had the opportunity the tell people at Super 8 Motel that they had already approved these two injection wells, one on Bettis Road and one within 1000 feet of the River Raisin that was done some 13 months ago.

I guess what I would ask based on a lot of this testimony that's given here, I would request that the EPA change -- make a change in its draft permit, this particular permit, take in consideration all this testimony that's been given. This is an environmentally sensitive area in our township.

I think of Norvell Township as being one huge wetland in the Irish Hills area. There isn't hardly a

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	1 ·	spot you can go where you're either up on a hill or if	
	2	you're down low. For many people that's	
1	3	environmentally sensitive. So I request a change in	
	4	the draft. Thank you.	
	5	MS. OSTERMEIER: Thank you. Again, next is	
l	6	Art Botte, and followed by Art will be Jack Curtis.	-
	7	MR. BOTTE: Yes. My name is Art Botte,	
	8	B-O-T-T-E. I just want to go on record as saying that	
	9	I'm opposed to putting in injection wells in Norvell	•
	10	Township or Jackson County or Lenawee County. 1	
	11	totally believe they are environmentally unsafe. I'm	
	12	sorry I can't believe the propaganda you've been	
	13	telling us for the last two hours.	
	14	MS. OSTERMEIER: Dan Curtis. Followed by	
	15	Dennis Conant. Mr. Curtis. We'll come back to him in	
	16	case he stepped out. Dennis Collins, followed by	
	17	Michael Horning.	•
	18	MR. CONANT: Dennis Conant, last name	
	19	C-O-N-A-N-T, Norvell Township attorney. I'd asked a	•
	20	question earlier in the evening as to whether or not	
	21	DEQ is aware of any failures in their injection wells	
	22	that happened apart from failure of the casing. That	
	23	answer was not that question was not answered. Th	ey
	24	said well make sure you make it part of this hearing,	
1	25	and so I'm making that a request of this hearing. You	

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advised whether or not there's been any failures not related to the casing.

My concern, of course, is that they talk about the level of containment. Every time you put a hole down you are, in fact, going through the levels, you are creating a pathway for migration of fluid that you're trying to put down there.

With oil wells and gas wells you have to drill where you find the resource, and Michigan creates a presumption that people are entitled to do that. We're not against oil and gas wells in Norvell Township. Injection wells, however, can be located anywhere because it's not a natural resource that you are collecting from the earth, it's something that's really a waste disposal site. So you can locate that waste disposal site anywhere.

West Bay has written us and they have told us that they were environmentally sensitive to the location of these injection wells. Well they're a thousand feet from the Rasin River. I suspect if it would have saved them some money, they probably would have had a platform out in the middle Norvell Lake and used that for an injection site. They're not environmentally sensitive. That's our concern is that if we get contamination, we get leakage, we get a

		Page 27
1	failure of the casing, we get upward migration through	
2	whatever means because when you put a hole through	n .
3	rock, it doesn't mean you're going to have a site seal.	
4	You might very well have fracturing that's going to	
5	allow migration right along the very pipe that's	
6	designed to put this stuff down there. How does that	
7 -	happen? It happens because of the pressure which	
8	causes the upward migration. It's got to go up a ways	,
9	no question about that, but when it gets into the	
10	aquifer, it's going to go, and then the approval of	
11	this permit could cause contamination of the Great	
12	Lakes. The river Raisin goes right to Lake Erie. Goes	i .
13	to a number of communities before it gets to Lake Erie	;
14	and then.	
15	MS. OSTERMEIER: I was just saying you're	
16	right at four minutes.	
17	MR. CONANT: Okay. I'll try to finish up.	•
18	It goes on Lake Ontario or goes towards the Detroit	
19	River and on to Lake Huron.	
20	Right now they're authorized at 1200 barrels	
21	a day. That could change. That's the permit	
22	requirement right now of brine and whatever else is	
23	contained. They're saying that well, we're just	
24	putting back down in the earth what came out of it.	
25	Well they are, but they're concentrating it in one	

		Page 28
1	spot. These are coming from a number of wells aroun	d
2	the area. They say well they'll all be in this general	
3	area. I'm saying that I'm not convinced that we're	
4.	being protected. We were not notified by the State of	
5	Michigan at the DEQ hearing. They don't tell you wha	t
6	the state requirements. They notified the county	
7	clerk. Well who thought to contact the county clerk to	
8	see if there was any request for permit? We will from	
9	now on, I can tell you that much.	
10	So here we are, and now we've got the federal	
. 11	DEQ and they told us that well this is the draft	
12	permit, we're going to just go ahead and we have to	
13	hold a public hearing, but we're going to approve this.	
14	That's basically what I heard when I talked with Ms.	
15	Miller the other day.	
16	So I'm concerned that this is going to go in	
17	without any safeguard to the community, and if, in	
18	fact, we have contamination, we'll be hundreds of year	rs
19	cleaning it up. I'll be dead and gone and West Bay	
20	will say, you know what, we followed all the permit	
21	requirements with the State of Michigan and the Fede	ral
22	DEQ. Thank you.	
23	MS. OSTERMEIER: Thank you. Michael Horni	ing
24	followed by Fred Marsh.	•
25	MR_HORNING: My name is Michael Horning	

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H-O-R-N-I-N-G. I'll repeat, I-N-G.	
I came here basically tonight to try and find	
out some answers to questions that I had thinking the	
professionals were going to be here and, unfortunately	,
I really haven't heard, except for a depth chart, of	
very many explanations of an injection well. I seem to	
be getting most of my information from people that are	
just average citizens like the rest of us that looked	
into this even more than I have, and I have some real	
sympathy for these people, and some of the questions	
that they're bringing up.	
I would like to go on record as saying that	
at this point coming into the meeting I was not one way	,
or the other on injection wells. I just came for	
information. But after the meeting tonight, I would	
like to say that I am definitely against an injection	
well in Norvell Township. Thank you.	
MS. OSTERMEIER: Next is Fred Marsh followe	d
by George Sanfacon.	
MR. MARSH: Fred Marsh, M-A-R-S-H.	
EPA environmental potential accident, that's	
what I see. I'd like to thank all my neighbors and	
friends for coming down here and expressing their view	٧S
on what's going on in our community, and it's a damn	

shame it's happening and you're allowing it to happen.

	Page 30
1	I know you said they passed all this stuff, they met
2	all requirements, but you don't live there; we do.
3	Thank you.
4	MS. OSTERMEIER: Mr. Sanfacon and followed by
5	Lalitha Doak.
6	MS. DOAK: No comment.
7	MR. SANFACON: My name a George Sanfacon,
8	spelled S-A-N-F-A-C-O-N. I live on Mud Lake in Norvell
9	Township just outside if Brooklyn. I'm hereby
10	petitioning EPA to deny permits for these two wells.
11	I'm doing this based on what we know. What do we know?
12	We know two things. We know the Irish Hills comprises
13	an extraordinary fresh water ecosystem, unsurpassed in
14	its beauty. It's important to the local economy and
15	its pivotal role in the bio region. It encompasses
16	scores of lakes as well as headwaters of several major
17	Michigan rivers.
18	Two, we know that the injection of massive
19	amounts of liquid waste into deep wells causes seismic
20	activities and earthquakes. While industry sources
21	claim otherwise, both the U.S. Army, and the U.S.
22	Geological Survey have concluded such.
23	Now based on the question and answer session
24	earlier, I know that your best guess is that it won't
25	be a problem, but I also know, as well as you do, that

	Page 31
1.	you cannot be 100% certain of that.
2	The possibility of seismic activity in the
3 .	proposed wells resulting in contamination of these
4	extraordinary fresh water resources cannot be ignored.
5	Surely this is not the place to apply any injection
6	technologies that are risk of contamination.
7	Based on the question and answer session
8	earlier, I also know that your criteria does not
9	include such factors. But this is a world class
10	heritage caliber site, and I believe that each of us
11	here, as well as the EPA, is duty-bound protected and
12	safeguarded on behalf of all people for all time.
13	Lastly, I assume that each of you took
14	employment with the EPA because you wanted to make a
15	real difference on the environment. You can do that by
16	denying these permits. Thank you.
17	MS. OSTERMEIER: Next is Dorothy Ann Coyne,
18	Dorothy Ann will be followed by Jennifer Porter.
19	MS. COYNE: My name is Dorothy Ann Coyne,
20	D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, A-N-N, C-O-Y-N-E. And I also am a
21	resident of a lake here in the Irish Hills. I have
22	been for 30 years. And I echo George's comment about
23	the beauty of the water land that we have here. We
24	have oil wells. It seems that is a fact of life, and
25	that is hard already for us, with the trucking, with

	Page 32
1	the air pollution, with just the general phenomena of
2 .	so many oil wells in such a beautiful area. And it
3	would seem to me that the injection wells could be
4	taken on by other area. Now that would mean that the
5	brine would be trucked, and that is a fact of that kind
6	of thing if the injection wells got away from the oil
7	wells. But if a truck falls over and spills, we can
8	see what has happened, and we can get on the surface
9	and do the best we can to clean up. But if a steel
10	casing well is down hundreds of feet below us, and over
11	the decades begins to corrode or for some reason things
12	begin to migrate up through the layer of the shale or
13	whatever we have below us, we can't see it, we don't
. 14	know what's happening, and it seems to me in the best
15	tradition of ancient Americans, we must look out for
16	several generations to come.
17	My great hope is that these beautiful lakes,
18	58 lakes inside of seven miles, will still be the
19	beautiful place for long past or great grandchildren.
20	Fresh water on this planet is such a tremendous
21	treasure, and I thank the Environmental Protection
22	Agency for holding that protection for us. Thank you.
23	MS. OSTERMEIER: Jennifer Porter. Jennifer
24	will be followed by Mark Muhich.
25	MS. PORTER: My name is Jennifer Porter,

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1	P-O-R-T-E-R.
2	First thing I'd like to request is that when
3	announcements are made, they be made in the local
4	paper, not the Jackson Cit-Pat so that people who
5	actually live in the town are local paper we get it.
6	It's always like somebody is trying to hide things from
7	us.
8	The second comment I would like to make is
9	I'm sorry, I don't remember your name, but during when
10	you were saying your hands were tied, you made the
11	comment that you need to see it from our side. Well
12	forgive me for being so wrong, but dammit, you need to
13	see it from our side. We live here.
14	I can show you where my great-grandmother
15	lived. I can show you where my grandparents lived and
16	where my parents got married an lived on Vineyard Lake.
17	And now I live, and my kids live within a half a mile.
18	To tell you the truth, I'm not going to live there much
19	longer.
20	You said that there's no problem, there's no
21	possibility of it coming back up, but yet, you actually
22	made the comment when somebody asked about putting in a
23	well to test it that, you know, old wells, old wells
24	that haven't been closed off right there have been
25	possibilities and chances where they've gone and tested

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to see how far out the brine has gone. So it does come back up. So it can go out, and one day our 42 wells are going to turn into 80 wells, are going to be old wells. It may not be in my lifetime or my kids', but it could be in their kids'.

And liquid follows the path of least resistance. It will eventually in some shape, way or form, there's a very good possibility it will come back up.

I'm proposing, because I really don't think we have any say in this, I think this is a done deal, but I'm proposing that you take water samples of everybody within a couple mile radius of these injection wells so that there is a baseline so that one day when we start having health problems and we start having problems, you can test it and say you know what, your sample is different than it was on such and such a date before.

I'm also proposing that there be tracers or something like that put down so you know exactly that it came from there, and West Bay can't say, well you can't be sure, you can't be 100% sure, because they may have followed what your requirements are, but they have lied to people in the past and there is documentation of that.

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o rotate
air
ara
-A-R-K
s from
County,

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The other thing that I'd like to see is air quality samples be taken around these wells, and I don't want it monitored just by West Bay. I'm sure we would have enough volunteers in the community to rotate on a regular basis so that we can monitor our own air samples, and I don't think that's too much to ask. MS. OSTERMEIER: Mark followed by Tamara Russell. MR. MUHICH: My name is Mark Muhich, M-A-R-K M-U-H-I-C-H. I'm the chair of the Central Michigan Group of the Sierra Club which comprises seven counties from Clinton County all the way down here in Jackson County, Lenawee, County. I think that the EPA should try to greater detail the permit. As the previous speaker said, we don't have a real baseline for water quality as it exists today. We don't have a baseline for the air quality. I think that we should do that before you consider issuing this permit. I don't think that you can appreciate how valuable our well resources are. Just a couple of hours before coming to this meeting we started filling our pool from a well that's been in our family for 60

years, and it's a big two and a half inch hose, pumps

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1	out hundreds of thousands of gallons a minute. It's
2	cold, it's clear, it's clean, it's sweet. It must be
3	some of the best water in the world, and to think that
4	we're going to jeopardize it with a pro forma draft
5	permit I think would be a terrible tragedy.
6	I'd like for you to think about some of the
7	very rare species that live in this unique habitat, in
8	particular the turtles. Turtles have been as we know
9	existing on earth pretty much the same shape as they
10	have for over 200 million years, and yet, they are in
11	deep decline, especially some of the turtles that live
12	right around this vicinity. I'm talking about land
13	turtles and I'm talking about spotted turtles. Their
14	habitat is very clear water with very muddy bottoms,
15	and they need a lot of land to exist. They are in deep
16	decline because their habitat has been fragmented. And
17	before you issue this permit, I'd like you to consider
18	the increased fragmentation of their habitat when these
19	pipelines come for the 40 wells or the 80 wells that
20	are going be pretty much dissecting critical habitat
21	for these turtles.
22	It's not an exaggeration to say that oil
23	companies have accomplished significant exceptions from
24	every other type of environmental rule and regulation.
25	Talking about you said you don't know what the

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1	Halliburton Rule is, but it's a matter of them thinking
2	that chemicals aren't proprietary and they don't have
3	to disclose them to us.
4	The oil industry, the gas industry have
5	excluded themselves from any type of local township or
6	county regulations. Depends on part 615. And what
7.	other industry in the entire country can expect to work
8	that type of exemption?
9	We're talking about water, the greatest
10	resource in Michigan, and probably in the world. The
11	oil industry has exerted an influence which from
12	Michigan's water withdraw, so that means that
13	potentially they can draw out a million gallons, five
14	million gallons for each of these wells as the oil
15	plays out.
16	So what I'm asking you to do is set a
17	baseline for it, baseline environmental standard.
1,8	Think about cumulative impact for all of the wells that
19	two, three four injection wells. I know that this is a
20	standard that can be applied to the federal law. And
21	I'm looking at protecting one of the oldest and rarest
22	turtles that live in one of the greatest habitats in
23	the world so thank you very much.
24	MS. OSTERMEIER: Tamara Russell, followed by
25	Brent Bartson.

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1	MS. RUSSELL: I'm Tamara Russell,
2	T-A-M-A-R-A, R-U-S-S-E-L-L. Thank you.
3	And I am making a request to decline
4	injection wells, and I make that request for all wells
5	to be declined by you, please.
6	First of all, and the reason I'm asking you
7	to decline them is that you are the Environmental
8	Protection Agency. First you protect our environment.
9	I know you work within laws and regulations, but what
10	if, what if those laws are wrong? What if they don't
11	protect enough. So I ask you to protect us.
12	On the first basis on human error, you know,
13	there's human error everywhere with the wells, with the
14	well sites, with the life of the well, the construction
15	of the wells, as well as the traveling to and from the
16	wells. I mean these all need to be considered that
17	there is human error that can be involved with this.
18	The second that the earth changes in our
19	beautiful community has already expressed the things
20	that can happen there.
21	And last, but not lease, your responsibility
22	is to protect the environment, and as human beings, we
23	need to protect life. That is life that you're
24	risking. So please, decline the wells, all the wells.
25	Thank you.

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1	MS. OSTERMEIER: Brent Bartson will be
2	followed by John Bancroft.
3	MR. BARTSON: Brent Bartson, B-A-R-T-S-O-N.
4	I'm a resident of Lodi Township and the
5	Raisin River runs through our backyard. I'm here to
6	oppose these injections wells for many reasons. The
7	first reason is, you know, I came here expecting to
8	hear some professional comments and questions being
9	answered by the EPA. I thought the EPA was here to
10	answer those questions in a very scientific way. From
11	this community, I don't think this community feels you
12	did a very good job of answering those questions. In
13	fact, I think you offended a lot of people. So if EPA
14	is here to protect us from this type of industrial
15	activity, I don't feel very confident that you're doing
16	that very well.
17	I've also participated in a lot of the
18	meetings with the DEQ Office of Oil and Gas Management,
19	and I don't feel very confident that from their answers
20	that they're going to protect the environment from, you
21	know, possible mishaps that might occur from these
22	injections wells.
23	So my strong opinion is that you oppose these
24	permits, please. Thank you.
25	MS. OSTERMEIER: John Bancroft followed by

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1	Brook Fobes.
2	MR. BANCROFT: John Bancroft,
3	B-A-N-C-R-O-F-T.
4	I have a lot of things that I was going to
5	say but four minutes. I don't know if you've taken a
6	tour of the area to really look closely at it, get your
7	feet in the ground. The site that they have showing
8	the wells isn't very good. It's got little dots on
9	that. I've taken the time to use this piece of art and
10	you can't see it, I'll just put it in there. All those
11	little red dots are two years, and the black dots are
12	the injection wells where they proposed. The round
13	circles are the industrial sites that they call central
14	processing facilities. You look at that, if you get a
15	chance, okay? It's to scale. That's about a mile.
16	This area right here on that map running from
17	Wamplers Lake up to Wolf Lake Road is a unique nature
18	area, world unique. It's called a prairie fen, F-E-N,
19	and we have some of the most rare prairie fen on the
20	planet. It goes from maybe up by Pontiac, Michigan
21	right down through here, little south of here. All you
22	have to do is go out and see all that Adam described
23	and that's where it is. It's unique. It's sitting on
24	top of about 200 feet of glacial till, gravel. From
25	that source, and I disagree on it a little bit, because

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1	going off in that direction from this area is the
2	Tiffin River which connects to the Maumee River. The
3	St. Joseph River goes down to Elkhart, Indiana and then
4	out to Lake Michigan. Then you have the Kalamazoo
5	River running over to Saugatuck. You have the Grand
6	River going through Lansing and Grand Rapids. You have
7	actually Huron River on the north end of this area,
8	this being infested with oil wells as we speak.
9	Then we have this whole area covered by the
10	Raisin River. If you contact Sybil Kolon, she works
11	for DEQ, she has the information describing the
12	recharge of the whole watershed aquifer. And right
13	where these sites are that we're talking about, and the
14	wells, the pixels are dark red. It's the heaviest
15	recharge for all these rivers. We are the top of the
16	hill, and this is a huge recharge.
17	Virtually everybody that lives, and there's
18	72 towns and cities on these rivers, everybody except
19	maybe over by Detroit, depends on well water,
20	everybody. Very few get much surface water, it's all
21	wells. Personal people, cities, it's all clean, sweet,
22	pure well water, okay? To allow injection wells, and
23	there are already some in the edges of this, to come in
24	here is jeopardizing the future. I'm almost done.
25	Every single penny of economy is taking place

Page 42 in this area for the last 200 years has relied on that water. We're going to have a few years where they're going to take a few billion dollars worth of oil and gas out here. Then we have to go for the rest of eternity depending on this water, the biggest sources of freshwater in the world. Everybody else in the world is in trouble with water. Michigan has it, and these people, and I've got a real bone to pick with the DEQ, the Department of Environmental Quality, to allow this kind of infestation filth to come in here on this kind of land should be illegal, and we will pursue this with you, and the oil companies. We will not get off you ever. We're going to increase it, and we're going to put pressure on you because you've got to do your job and you'd better start doing it. Thank you. MS. OSTERMEIER: Brooke Fobes, followed by Anita Fobes. MS. FOBES: Okay. My name is Brooke Fobes, Last name is F-O-B-E-S, and I'm a registered nurse here practicing in Michigan. I've also had experience in research and environmental health, and I have significant concerns about this well that's being proposed. I don't know what the stage is that it's in right now, but I really ask that you not approve this well. I don't live in the area, but several of my very

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dearest friends do live in this area, very near to this proposed well, and I have significant concerns about their land and my friends that farm in the area. I worry about that too.

I guess this is our point where we say what we would like our response from the EPA that we say it and respond in writing. So I have a couple questions just for the record. I would like to know what is brine exactly? I think it's a very misleading term because in common use, this means saltwater, but I think you might mean it more of a chemical sense. I think that's something we all really need to know what's in there.

Why are there not environmental impact studies required? They should be required for any and all wells of any type, including injection wells. There should be an environmental impact study for this well and all wells.

I would like to know also who's responsible for notifying the community. That's been a problem as people in this community were not notified in the publication available to them here locally. So we actually were able to network and talk to each other and find out, fortunately, to be here tonight, otherwise we would have never known. That's a very

important part to involve the community where you're approving a well from.

I also note from my environmental health studies I did when I was a student nurse that there is not, at least there wasn't at this time, any required for testing rural well water for safety. Certainly not any general standards for testing rural wells on any regular basis, and I don't think it's even a funded activity. So I think that that's something that needs to be done around any proposed well that goes in.

I'd also like to know if the EPA can't stop a well like this when the community doesn't want it, then who can? I would like to see the response in writing. I think that's all I have.

I just would like to add that water is the most important resource we have and we are very proud of it here. We know in Michigan this is something that's very special about where we live, and we care about it, and we're stubborn, and I'm sure we'll be watching this issue in the future. Water is priceless, and it's necessary for life, so really this is a right that we have safe water and there's really no way to put the Genie back in the bottle once we have these chemicals down in the ground. Despite all precautions, the water will — the flows underground will change

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		Page 45
1	over time, and there's no way to anticipate where thes	е
2	chemicals will go years down the road. So thank you	
3	very much for being here, and I please ask that you	
4	decline this well permit.	
5	MS. OSTERMEIER: Anita Fobes, followed by	
6	Kurt Gleichman.	
7	MS. FOBES: My name is Anita Fobes, A-N-I-T-	-A
8	F-O-B-E-S. I understand that your job as EPA official	
9	is to grant permits based on technical, scientific and	
10	legal requirements. And the sentiment of those of us	
11	here are the values of this community don't really play	
12	into a decision that you're making. However, the	
13	permit that we're discussing tonight describes	
14	injection of brine, as you said, 2950 feet below ground	
15	level. I'm more concerned about the surface	
16	contamination and consequences of environmental	
17	consequences of this injection well.	
18	A significant number of contamination events	
19	result from human error, not in engineering or	
20	technical mistakes. For this reason, because the area	ì
21	is so sensitive environmentally, I would request that	
22	you deny or deny the permit and conduct a complete	
23	environmental study of the impacts of a surface event	,
24	At the Super 8 meeting that we all call the	
25	Super 8 meeting that happened earlier this year, one	of

		Page 46
1	the West Bay officials said that pipelines will be	•
2	constructed to deliver brine waste to the injection	
3	wells, and with, with pipeline situation we haven't	
4	discussed this at all, I don't know if it's actually	
5	part of the EPA permit, but there's an inevitability	
6	that the pipelines will eventually fail, they just do.	
7	And a failure of a pipeline over wetlands and this	
8	environmentally sensitive area would be a catastrophe,	
9	not just an event, but it would be a catastrophe to a	
10	larger area and Great Lakes.	
11	So I believe that the terms of this permit	
12	are not consistent with EPA guidelines for the	
13	injection program and I believe an extensive	
14	environmental study needs to be completed before the	
15	permit goes any further. Thank you.	
16	MS. OSTERMEIER: And then did Jack Curtis	
17	return? Did Jack Curtis return. Okay. Then Kurt	
18	Gleichman followed by Kathryn Ulbin.	
19	MR. GLEICHMAN: Kurt Gleichman. K-U-R-T,	
20	G-L-E-I-C-H-M-A-N.	
21	How does the industry, EPA, DEQ protect	
22	citizens from the cost of water testing? How frequent	
23	should they test. How do citizens know when their	
24	water is contaminated by the injection well? Who has	
25	the burden of proof? Who will pay for the cost of	

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	1	cleanup, medical treatment, provision of fresh water to
	2	the citizens? Who is ensuring the protection of the
	3	citizens well water after the injection well is capped?
	4	These injection wells violate our
	5	constitutional right and should not be built. Michigan
	6	Constitution Article 1, Section 1 says, "All political
	7	power is inherent in the people. Government is
	8	instituted for their equal benefits, security, and
	9	protection." It does not say all political power is
	10	inherent in the industry. Government is instituted for
	11	their equal benefits, security, and protection.
	12	Who is requesting these wells? Industry.
	13	Who does not want these wells? The people. Injecting
	14	toxic waste under our aquifers only benefits industry
	15	and leaves our communities with an insecure existence
	16	and unprotected future. Thank you.
	17	MS. ULBIN: Kathryn Ulbin. U-L-B-I-N. I
	18	live in Norvell Township at Vineyard Lake. I have a
	19	few things to say. One, we, live in the River Raisin
	20	watershed basin. If that doesn't tell you where we
l	21	live, there's nothing else. If you don't know that,
	22	you should be looking at our township.
	23	The pristine part of the River Raisin is
	24 .	where you've got an injection well. It's 1000 feet
I	25	from the River Raisin. That is the pristing part of

	Page 48
1	the River Raisin.
2	I wonder what happened to transparency. Why
3	wasn't the township notified? Why weren't the people
4	of Norvell Township notified? I think that is
5	terrible. Are you doing away with local government?
6	There was a spill in 1987 at Gilbert Science, and that
7	was in Ann Arbor. It was approved by the DNR, and it
8	was an injection well, and it didn't work. It's
9	contaminated still today, and they can't even sell the
10	building around the contamination. So it never goes
11	away once it's contaminated.
12	I wish that you would move these injection
13	wells away from the pristine parts of our township.
14	The West Bay said they did an environmental impact
15	study. Where is it? Does anyone know where it is? We
16	don't. We've never seen it. We would like to see it.
17	Most of the errors are 80% of the errors
18	with the injection wells are from human errors, and the
19	others are construction malfunctions. The people who
20	pay for these environmental contaminations are private,
21	and also the people in the community pay. Thank you.
22	MS. OSTERMEIER: I believe we've I've
23	called everyone who indicated on these papers that were
24	interested. Did I miss you? Okay. Please, if you'd
25	like to make public comment. I apologize if I missed

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1	somebody, it wasn't intentional.
2	MR. COYNE: My name is Bernie Coyne,
3	C-O-Y-N-E, and I've lived here for 30 years. And we
4	live in one of the epicenters of fresh water in the
5	world. And we look at the news, you see all these
6	people that are dying for fresh water, and for us to
7	contaminate this makes no sense at all.
8	And the decision making process, I'm sure
9	you've followed every regulation, but it was, my wife
10	referred to it earlier, the native American people
11	think about seven generations into the future when they
12	make a big decision. I think this decision has been
13	made basically following the regulations, but informed
14	by the oil company and not by research.
15	And I can understand innocently in Chicago,
16	you think that's valid. However, the truth is, and you
17	heard it from all these wonderful, clear descriptions
18	of feeling and scientific fact that it's inadequate
19	what we have received in information, and we wonder if
20	you're getting the right information because the source
21	is the oil company. I mean it's like saying now Mr.
22	Fox, would you watch the chicken coop.
23	And an environmental study would indicate how
24	very special this water wonderland is. And also then
25	there is the fen, and then there are all the special

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1	species. And on the basis of a thorough engagement
2	with Environmental Protection Acts, we ought to be able
3	to say no very definitely, not because we live here,
4	because we love the water and it's so rare. Please
5	take that under consideration. Thank you.
6	MS. OSTERMEIER: Okay. I'm going to take
7	this gentleman who just stood up, then Sharon Donovan,
8	and followed by Sharon will be you.
9	MR. GAJAR: Good evening. My name is John
10	G-A-J-A-R, and I submitted a written statement as to
11	why I think there should not be an injection well and
12	it goes over everything we've already said here about
13	the seismic activity, which I believe the gentleman
14	said we have a very soft basin, not an impervious basin
15	as was suggested. But I think, I think the EPA is
16	trying to do their job, but a great man in my time once
17	said, the buck stops here.
18	Ladies and gentlemen of the EPA, you have an
19	opportunity to preserve what we have here. I ask you
20	to ask your conscious, because if I was sitting up
21	there, I'd ask myself, what would I do, and I would do
22 .	what my conscious tells me is the right thing to do,
23	and that is listen to the people, we the people. Thank
24	you.
25	MS. DONOVAN: Sharon Donovan, D-O-N-O-V-A-N.

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1	The stuff I've heard from other people is really	
2	compelling and emotional basis, but what I was	
3	wondering is what is the EPA required to do, whether	
4	you actually have the ability to stop this from	
5	happening, from the injection wells being in such a	
6	beautiful place and what power does this community	
7	have, and what processes can we follow to have actual	
8	choices over the powers to make this not happen.	
9	I'm also curious that these rivers in this	
10	area drain into the Great Lakes, that means they also	
11	impact Canadian water rights. And I also wanted to	
12	know about the in the structure of the EPA it seems	
13	to me that some of its effectiveness is hampered by	
14	politics and funding, and the political cycle. We're	
15	in a place where nothing gets done right now, maybe	
16	nothing will get done for the rest of the year.	
17	But the other thing that budget affects its	
18	enforcement and oversight, and what I don't know	
19	anything about is whether you guys actually have the	
20	ability to staff, the funding or any of the kinds of	
21	things the enable the EPA to protect these communities,	
22	and I feel very sorry for you having to sit there being	
23	targets. Thank you.	
24	MS. GLEICHMAN: Hello, my name is Hillary	
25	Gleichman, G-L-E-L-C-H-M-A-N, and I'm from Washtenaw	

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	Page 52
1	County. Although I'm not from this county, I am part
2	of the community. I am your neighbor. I am your
3	friend. I care what happens here. I don't know that
4	I'm a friend and neighbor of the EPA or DEQ. I don't
5	understand I'll back up.
6	Some of you have delivered passionate
7	speeches; some of you have delivered factual
8	statements. As I step back, I can't even believe that
9	we're talking about allowing our government people from
10	other areas to come in and rape this land, take our
11	water, spoil the aquifers, spoil our water and then
12	leave, and leave us with the mess to be cleaned up not
13	by ourselves but by future generations from here to
14	eternity, as John said. That we're even discussing
15	this just disgusts me beyond belief, and I, of course,
16	hope this is turned down. I understand that you have a
17	job to do, but this is, this is a life's water, our
18	life, not just in Michigan but as human beings. Why
19	are we going to such extreme measures to try to extract
20	a finite resource? We can be putting energy literally
21	and figuratively into renewable energies as opposed to
22	going to such extreme measures, and then leaving the
23	waste. And I do feel like it's just a rape of the
24	earth. Thank you.
25	MS, OSTERMEIER: Yes, please come on up.

MR. WOTTON: Good evening. My name is Clive Wotton, W-O-T-T-O-N, resident of Saline and a frequent camper an enjoyer of this area, and I'm shocked at what's happened around here with the number of oil wells that's gone in. To my mind it's actually it's very damaging to the area. It obviously relies on tourism quite heavily.

So yesterday my wife gave me some papers to read and they're actually coal papers involving West Bay from 1998, where West Bay intentionally perforated tanks to allow drainage to occur in the ground causing contamination which DEQ were involved in actually forcing remediation. I'm shocked that you're allowing West Bay to do a survey, to then actually do the monitoring and actually put in a site wells or testing wells, a company that has intentionally polluted previously. Thank you.

MS. OSTERMEIER: Is there anybody else who was not given an opportunity to make a public comment for the record that would still like to do that. Also remember, if you're interested in submitting something in writing, you can do that as well. With that, Dana?

MS. RZEZNIK: I just have to ask those questions officially for the record. Is there anyone who has requested to speak but whose name was not

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1	called? Is there anyone who would like to enter
2	comments into the formal record?
3	Let the record show that no one indicates
4	they wish to enter comments. Thank you.
5	Again, if you have written comments, but did
6	not wish to speak, please give them to one of us before
7	you leave here tonight, or forward them in writing to
8	the EPA prior to the deadline of June 1st, 2012.
9	This concludes the hearing. Thank you.
10	(The proceeding was concluded at 8:42 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF MICHIGAN:
4	
5	I, Mindy Womack, a Michigan Certified Court Reporter,
6	do hereby certify:
7	
8	That the foregoing proceedings were taken
9	down, as stated in the caption, and reduced to
10	typewriting under my direction, and that
11	the foregoing pages represent a true
12	record of said proceedings.
13	
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
15	hand this 1st day of June, 2011.
16	
17	College Control of the Control of th
18	
19	Charle Para Reporting
20	Jane Rose Reporting,
21	Mindy Womack
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